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101 N. 14TH STREET, 17<sup>TH</sup> FL.  
RICHMOND, VA 23219

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December 17, 2020

Mr. John Maxwell  
Commissioner  
Virginia Department of Veterans Services  
101 N 14<sup>th</sup> Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Re: Letter of Support – Homeless Veterans Programs

Dear Commissioner Maxwell,

During its meeting on September 16, 2020, the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) received a report on veterans-related homelessness and housing services that highlighted the challenges being experienced by veterans during the current public health and economic crises. While it is clear that the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (VDVS) is working hard to address the needs of veterans, the BVS feels it is appropriate and necessary to underscore the Board's concern for, and support of, efforts to address the needs of Virginia's most vulnerable veterans. Accordingly, on December 17, 2020, the Board voted unanimously to provide this letter to underscore its support for programs that help Virginia's veterans find and maintain safe, affordable, and stable housing.

Over the past six years, over 6,000 formerly homeless veterans in our Commonwealth have found permanent housing. The Board recognizes that these results were achieved through the passion and commitment of state, federal, and local government agencies, non-profit and faith-based organizations, the business community, and many other partners. Recognized as the first state to functionally end veterans' homelessness, Virginia must maintain its commitment to ensuring that homelessness among veterans is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

We ask that you and your VDVS team continue to work closely with our partners to do all that you can to ensure we do not see a spike in the number of homeless veterans due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic conditions. We further ask that you continue to advocate for the resources necessary to ensure our commitment does not waiver. The members of the Board stand ready to assist in any way that we can.

I request that you share a copy of this letter with Governor Ralph Northam, Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Carlos Hopkins, and the leaders of the General Assembly Military and Veterans Caucus so that they may know of the Board's steadfast commitment to our homeless veterans.

Sincerely,

Michael Dick  
Chairman

Cc: Members, Board of Veterans Services